

Middle School Summer Reading

How to Annotate a Book: Guidelines

1. The main purpose of annotating a book is to keep track of your thinking and to help you to engage in what you are reading. In school, we usually use sticky notes because we share books. If you own the book, you can just write in the margin – either way will work as long as you focus on the following things:
 - a. While reading, you need to focus on making connections to the text, visualizing what is happening, determining the most important parts, and asking yourself questions. These are called “during reading strategies”.
 - b. To create the sticky note, you can use the following sentence starters to help you get going:
 - i. “That reminds me of...”
 - ii. “I have connection to...”
 - iii. “I remember when...”
 - iv. “I wonder why...”
 - v. “Why...”
 - vi. “I’m confused by...”
 - vii. “This is really important because...”
 - viii. “I think this means...”
 - ix. “I predict...”
 - c. You should try to use a couple of sticky notes per chapter.
2. When you return to school, you will be able to remember the story more clearly because you can review your sticky notes.
3. If you do not own the book you are reading, you can either keep a journal of annotations or place your sticky notes from your reading into a journal. If you keep a journal of annotations, it is important that you record the page number as well as the annotation. This will help you to have conversations with others at the beginning of the school year. If you place your sticky notes into a journal, make sure that they are in order and that they also contain the page number.

MODEL OF A STICKY NOTE:

I wonder if Matt will ever see
his family again?

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